

Idaho Youth Prevention Survey

Region 4 Report

Valley, Boise, Ada and Elmore Counties

2014

The Idaho Youth Prevention Survey assessed behaviors and attitudes about substance use and other high-risk behaviors. The survey was administered to students statewide in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12, and resulting data yielded information about student perceptions and activities.

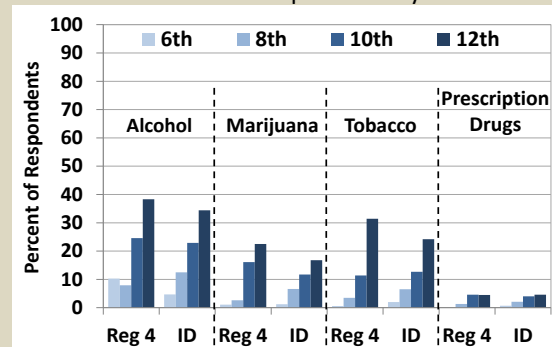
More than 12,000 students participated in the survey statewide; 947 attended schools in the Region 4 counties of Ada and Boise, located in southwestern Idaho.

Grade Level	Region 4		Idaho	
	#	%	#	%
6th	224	24	3140	25
8th	256	27	3663	29
10th	240	25	3168	25
12th	227	24	2679	21
Total	947	100	12650	100

Focusing on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana use, and consumption of unprescribed prescription drugs, this report addresses students' recent use and perceptions of substance use. Data pertaining to suicidal attempts and ideation is also presented.

Regional and statewide results are provided based on the grade level of the students surveyed. Nearly all at-risk behaviors examined were more common among older students (Chart 1). Similarly, attitudes towards such behaviors became more casual, with less risk or wrong-doing ascribed by older students.

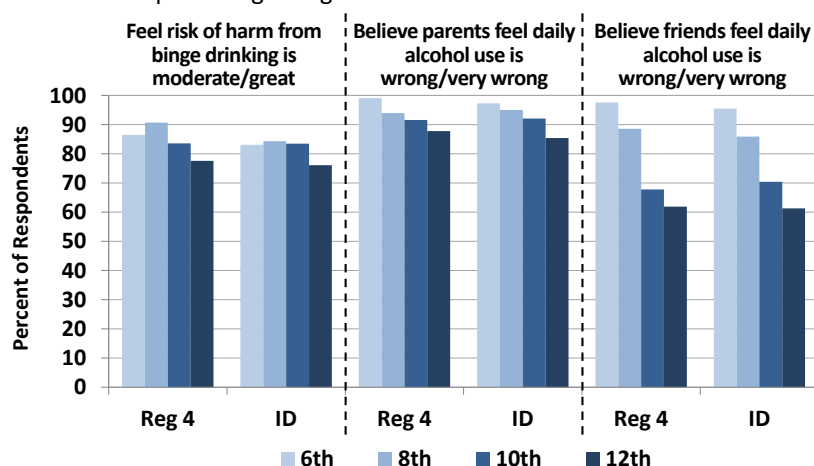
Chart 1. Substance use in prior 30 days



Previous studies indicate that, since 2008, alcohol use has decreased while tobacco and marijuana usage rates remain stable (see Idaho Department of Education Report: *Substance Use, Safety, And School Climate In Idaho, 2008*).

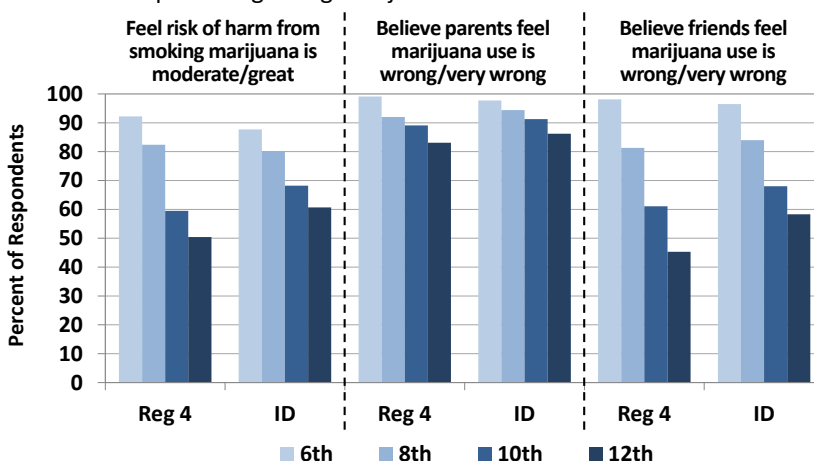
Few sixth grade students reported consuming alcohol in the month prior to taking the survey statewide (5%), but rates were higher among Region 4 sixth grade students (10%). Use increased among older students, with 38% of the Region 4 seniors reporting recent alcohol use, compared with 34% statewide (Chart 1). Most students, in both Region 4 and statewide, believed that consuming five or more alcoholic drinks once or twice a week (i.e., binge drinking) involved moderate or great risk of harm. The vast majority also believed their parents feel daily alcohol use is wrong, while students in high school were substantially less likely than students in middle school to believe their friends feel daily alcohol use is wrong (Chart 2).

Chart 2. Perceptions regarding alcohol use



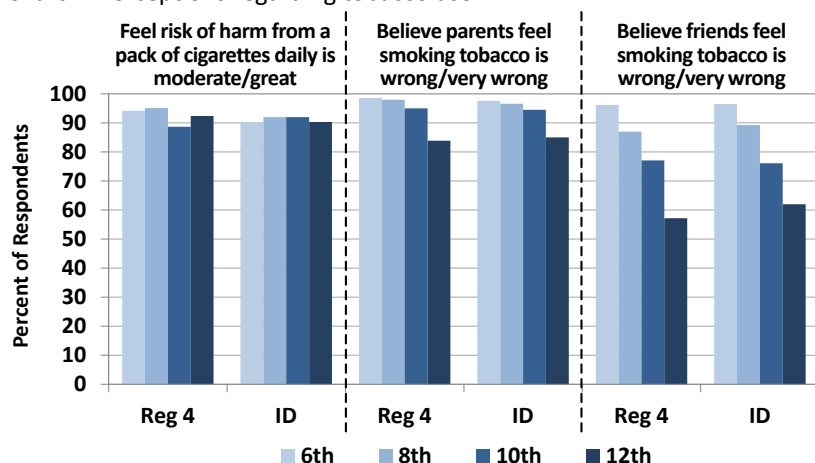
Though marijuana usage is lower than that of alcohol (Chart 1), similar trends are evident among students' perceptions of parents' judgments. The risk of harm associated with such use and perceptions of friends' judgments are lower among Region 4 high school students (Chart 3).

Chart 3. Perceptions regarding marijuana use



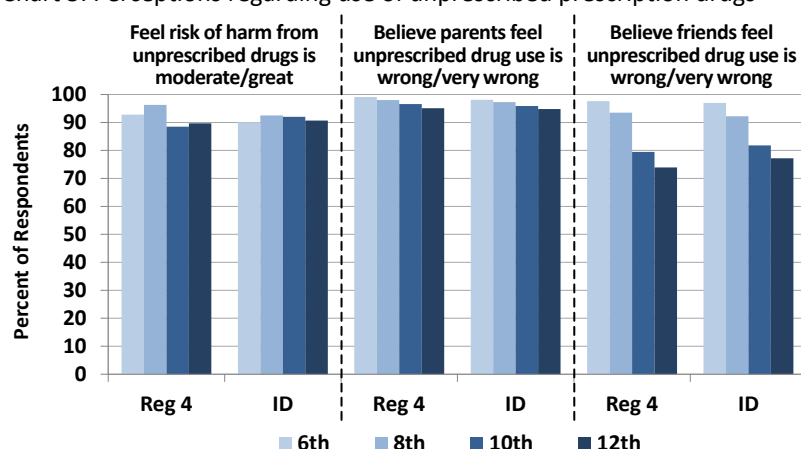
Nearly one third of Region 4 twelfth grade students (31%) recently used tobacco, in the form of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, or cigars, 7% higher than statewide usage (Chart 1), even though the vast majority of students from all grade levels believed that smoking at least a pack of cigarettes daily posed a risk of harm. In Region 4, 84% of seniors believed their parents feel smoking tobacco is wrong, while only 57% believed their friends feel it is wrong (Chart 4).

Chart 4. Perceptions regarding tobacco use



Recent use of unprescribed prescription drugs was rare among Idaho students (Chart 1). Most believe such use is risky, and that their parents feel it is wrong. High school students were less likely than middle school students to report that their friends feel it is wrong (Chart 5).

Chart 5. Perceptions regarding use of unprescribed prescription drugs



The following questions can be used to start a conversation in your community about ways to prevent substance abuse.

- How do students' substance abuse rates in our region compare to the rest of the state?
- How do these rates compare with what we are personally aware of among our students?
- What are students' perceptions of school culture and climate in our region?
- How can we better educate families about substance abuse and inform them about community resources for our students?
- What are our goals around substance abuse prevention, and how can we achieve them?

Suicidal Ideation

During tenth grade, when responses indicating depressive behaviors were the most common, 34% of Region 4 students (33% statewide) indicated feeling hopeless at least some of the time during the prior 30 days, and 11% reported they had seriously considered attempting suicide (14% statewide). Among Region 4 students who had been bullied in the past year, 22% indicated they had seriously considered suicide, compared with 6% among those not bullied.



Other Region 4 Survey Findings

- In Region 4, 10% of seniors had used downers (depressants), compared with 6% statewide.
- Region 4 students were more likely to report that they always feel safe at their school (49%) than were students statewide (44%).
- Students in Region 4 were more likely to indicate they had changed schools (68%) than were students statewide (58%).
- Region 4 tenth graders were less likely to indicate they believed they were overweight (21%) compared with tenth graders statewide (28%).
- Sixth graders in Region 4 more commonly reported being bullied in the prior year (46%) than did sixth graders statewide (42%). However, rates decreased among older students, and were lower than statewide rates (e.g., 27% of tenth graders reported being bullied in Region 4 compared with 31% statewide).
- More than three-fourths (78%) of students in Region 4 felt it was likely or very likely that they would attend/graduate from a university, compared with 73% of students statewide.

The complete 2014 Idaho Youth Prevention Survey report can be downloaded from the following website:

www.sde.idaho.gov/site/safe_drugfree/

For additional information, contact Matt McCarter, mamccarter@sde.idaho.gov.